

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present amendment, new claims 22-41 have been added and claims 10-21 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-9 and 22-41 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment.

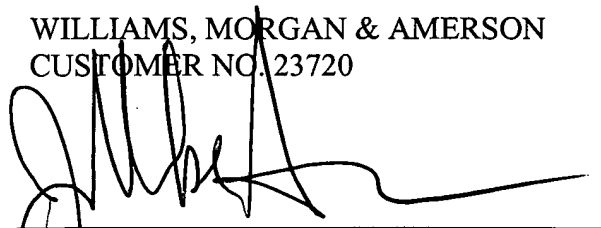
Pursuant to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect to prosecute claims 1-9, with traverse. Additionally, Applicants have added new claims 22-41 to further elaborate and define Applicants' invention. New claims 22-41 are consistent with the species elected in response to the restriction requirement.

It should be understood that in canceled claims 10-21, Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the Examiner's contentions. Moreover, Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue the subject matter defined by claims 10-21 in a later filed application should they so desire.

It is believed that the application is now ready for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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